

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A system for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system device, the first message-based system device being one of a set of message-based ~~systems~~ system devices within a workgroup, the first message-based system device having a viewer, the system comprising:

a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one message information item that is assigned a set of metadata, the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an ~~obligation~~; obligation, and including task information independent of the message information of the thrask;

a sorting module sorting a new message information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

a display module displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata ~~of each of the~~ assigned to each of the message information items in each of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

an updating module updating the thrasks and at least one of the metadata based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

4. (Currently Amended) The system of Claim 3 wherein the first message-based system device has different capabilities than at least one in the set of message-based ~~systems~~ system devices.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system device, the first message-based system device being one

of a set of message-based ~~systems-system devices~~ within a shared workgroup, the message-based ~~systems-system devices~~ being synchronized periodically with a shared workgroup component on a server, the first message-based system device having a viewer, the method comprising the operations of:

generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one message information item that is assigned a set of metadata, the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an ~~obligation~~; obligation, and including task information independent of the message information of the thrask;

sorting a new message information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata ~~of one of the~~ assigned to one of the message information items in one of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

providing a shared view of some of the thrasks to a subset of the message-based ~~systems-system devices~~ within the shared workgroup in response to a user selection of an option; and

updating at least one of the metadata ~~of one of the~~ assigned to one of the message information items in one of the thrasks based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A system for managing and tracking information items within a first message-based system device, the first message-based system device being one of a set of message-based ~~systems-system devices~~ within a shared workgroup, the message-

based system device being synchronized periodically with a shared workgroup component on a server, the first message-based system device having a viewer, the system comprising:

a thrask generating module generating a plurality of thrasks, each of the thrasks including at least one message information item that is assigned a set of metadata, the metadata relating to priorities and events of information items and including at least one of the group of a deadline, a reminder, a deferral and an ~~obligation~~obligation, and including task information independent of the message information of the thrask;

a sorting module sorting a new message information item into one of the thrasks in accordance with at least one criterion;

a display module displaying one or more of the thrasks and at least one of the metadata ~~of one of the~~ assigned to one of the message information items in one of the displayed thrasks in the viewer; and

a sharing module providing a shared view of some of the thrasks to a subset of the message-based ~~systems~~ system devices within the shared workgroup in response to a user selection of an option; and

an updating module updating at least one of the metadata ~~of one of the~~ assigned to one of the message information items in one of the thrasks based on at least one of user input, archived data in a database, time and progress.

8. (Canceled)